

AN

Epistle of Love

AND

Good Advice

To my Old Friends & Fellow-Sufferers
in the Late TIMES,

The Old Royalists

And their Posterity;

And to all others that have any sincere Desires to-
wards GOD.

*There was a Man sent from God, whose Name was John, the same
came to be a witness, to bear witness of the Light, John 1.6,7,8,9.*

My Friends;

ALL you that lay under the Lash of the late Times,
I cannot forget our Sufferings, nor the Mercies
of God to us, but must needs put you in mind
to be weighty and serious in improving your Deliverance
to better ends, than many of you have done hitherto,
that ye may come to know the things belonging to
A your

your Peace, before they be hidden from your Eyes,
that whatsoever happen ye may be fitted and pre-
pared for it, so that ye may escape the Snares of the old
Enemy of Mankind, who is profound in Subtilty, and
hath his Agents about in all places to promote his King-
dom of Darknes, and Delusions, which are discovered
only by the *true Light, that enlightneth every man that
cometh into the World, which shineth into the Heart of man*
2 Cor. 4. 6. *to give him the Knowledge of God*; for as the outward
Sun in the Firmament is not to be seen but by its own
Light that shines from it, so God that is a supernatural
inward Light, is not to be seen or known but by his
own Light that shines into the dark Heart of Man, that
is gone out from him into the fallen state; and as you
do watch and wait for this Light you will see your Re-
demption, and will be fenced from the Power of this
crooked Serpent, and his jealous Whisperings, and de-
tracting Insinuations, that have made all the Broyles in
this Nation from time to time to this very day, and
mostly upon the account of Religion.

Happy had it been for this Nation, if Religion (so
often pretended to) had been real, without any mixture
of mans Invention; but God that saw that Men were
not fitted and prepared for it, through their own neg-
lect and carelesness, in not being faithful to what they
knew was their Duty towards him and their Neighbours,
upon this account hath the Lord withheld this great
Blessing from many of the great Pretenders and Stick-
lers in matters of Religion as well as others, so as they
have missed of the real and Spiritual Knowledge of this
Ministration of the glorious Gospel of our Lord & Saviour
Jesus Christ, which is Peace on Earth, Good Will towards men;
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this is truly preached by some, both in their Doctrine, Lives and Conversations in this day spring of divine Light and Love, which hath appeared in a large measure to all those that have been faithful to what they knew of God in their own Hearts and Consciencés, whose Hearts are tender, and brought low before him, and have given up all their Concerns to him, and can part with all for him: These, I say, are the Plants of Renown, and no others, neither can any come to be grafted into this Stock by any outward Rule or Observation of mans contrivance; the divine Vertue must be in our selves, it is not in the Power of Man to put it into us, it is the Gift of God in our own Hearts, that inward Principle that leads to the divine Life, which is the *blessed Grace of God that bringeth Salvation, which hath appeared to all men*, as saith the Scriptures, and those that are taught by it, they do *deny all Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, and do live Soberly, Godly and Righteously in this present World*; these are they that are brought out of the Vanities and Deceits thereof, and have received the Anointing that teacheth them of all things, so as they need no man to teach them. But how this will relish with those that keep People alwayes in teaching, that they may alwayes be paying them, I know not, neither am I concerned for that; the Gift of God in our own Hearts is not to be denied nor concealed; this Gift is given to all mankind, even to the *Rebellious*, that the Lord may dwell amongst them, as saith the *Psalmist*; it shows to man his Rebellion against God, and exhorts him to come out of it; it teacheth Humility of Mind, and all other Moral, Heroick and Divine Vertues; This Light, Power and Spirit of the Lord God is tendred to all mankind, as well Women as Men, if they

2 Tit. 2.

11, 12

1 John 2. 27.

Psal. 68. 18.

they do wait in Faith and Patience to receive it ; this may be easily proved, first by the believing Woman of *Samarita*, that carried the Tidings of the *Messiah* to the *Samaritans*, whereby many of them were converted : And also after the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, he appeared first to two Women, and sent them to carry the Glad-tidings of his Resurrection to his Disciples. The Apostle *Peter* in the *Acts* preached out of the Prophet *Joel*, to those People that said the Apostles were drunk with new Wine, and shewed them their mistake, that they were not drunk as they supposed, but it was that which was spoken of by the Prophet, *That should come to pass in the latter dayes*, (saith God) *that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all Flesh, your Sons and your Daughters shall prophesie, and on my Servants, and on my Hand-maids will I pour out of my Spirit, and they shall prophesie* : This hath confirmed that saying of the Apostle *Paul*, *That there is neither Jew nor Greek, Bond nor Free, Male nor Female, but are all one in Christ* : And the same Apostle in one of his Epistles to the *Corinthians*, speaks concerning Womens Service in the Church, both of Praying and Prophecying ; and in some other places in the Scripture he forbids some Womens teaching and usurping Authority over the Man ; all which do no ways obstruct nor contradict what is formerly declared concerning such Women as have received Power from God to Pray, Prophecy or declare the Glad-tidings of the Light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ Jesus : Much more might be said in this case, which I do forbear, this being sufficient. The *Protestant*-Religion forbids expounding one place of Scripture to make it repugnant to another ; see that remarkable Article of the *Church of England*, called the

Twentieth Article: It is the Subtily of the Serpent to expound one place of Scripture to make it repugnant to another, to uphold such Formalities as he can creep into; although the Scriptures of Truth be all an equal Truth, yet they are not all of an equal weight, the Substance declared therein is of more weight than the Forms and Circumstances thereof. Our Lord Jesus Christ the God of glory, hath visited People under several Forms, and hath left them again desolate and empty of his presence; when their Forms come once to be admired or adored, then they are no better than an Idol, and a cover for Hypocrites. Also, this I have seen in my time of understanding things of this nature, which is above forty Years, although the Lord Christ hath appeared to People in several Forms, yet he dyed to end Shadows and Typical Forms; our great concerns are to be conformable to his Death, that we may be partakers of his Resurrection; It is usual with the Serpent to creep into Forms, but he cannot creep into this true Conformity, there is no Harbour for him in the Cross, he is not willing that any should take up the Cross, and become a true Disciple of Christ Jesus: *It is the Seed of the Woman that bruises the Serpents Head;* (I pray mark that) for wheresoever this Seed is sown, either in Man or Woman, that is sown upon the good Ground, it will bring forth its Increase, according as is declared in the Scriptures of Truth, and is there called *the least of Seeds*, and is *the Day of small things*, which many have despised, for that which they have accounted to be greater *In-joyments, which are but as the glory of the World;* which the Devil, the God of the World hath shown them, who tempts Man and Woman at this day, as he did our Saviour in the dayes of his Flesh, when he shewed him

Gen. 3: 15.

Mat. 13. 31,

Zach. 4. 7. 10.

all the Kingdoms of the World, and the glory of them; and as these pretended Gifts of the god of the World are received, they blind the mind of Man and Woman, *lest they should believe in the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, or that it should shine into them*; this is that inward Principle of the divine Light and Life, which is given of God to man and woman to be their Guide, to bring them out of their fallen state, that the Work of the Devil may be destroyed in them, which is *Pride, Vain Glory, Covetous Minds and Corrupt Manners, feigned and contrived Religion, which is Hypocrisie*, all which this Nation is much poysoned withal.

And further, I shall add this, that the Lord is opening the Store-house of his divine Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, to all those that do sincerely wait in silence, that their Minds may be made empty of all Imagination, whereby they may be fitted and prepared to receive that inward Principle of Gods love to mankind, in all Humility and Resignation to him, that his divine Power and precious Grace may be their Teacher, to lead them out of their outward Observations into that inward Principle of the divine Life, whereby all Gods Children do govern their Actions: O that ye may all come to this, *to dwell with God, and he with you*, as it is written by that Evangelical Prophet *Isaiah, Thus saith the high and holy One that inhabits Eternity, whose Name is Holy, I dwell in that High and Holy Place, with him also that is of a Contrite and Humble Spirit*. To revive the Spirit of the Humble, and to revive the Heart of the Contrite One, this is that that all will desire at one time or other, and *That they may dye the Death of the Righteous also*; Ay! but this will not serve your turns, you must come to *live the Life of the Righteous first, which is To*

order

2 Cor 4.

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Isa. 57.

15.

order your Conversations aright, and then you will see the *Psal. 50.*
Salvation of God; and ye will then see the destruction of *23.*
 the Lusts of the Flesh, the Lusts of the Eyes, and the
 Pride of Life, and whatsoever is contrary to God; By
 the work of God in your own Hearts, and by his inward
 and spiritual Grace, Sin will be mortified in you, and
 ye will be brought into a serious Consideration and hea-
 venly Contemplation of the Beauty and Glory of a Cae-
 lestial Life, that ye may be fixed Stars in the Kingdom
 of God forever.

All you that are like the *Noble Bereans*, that are dili-
 gent Inquirers of this Age, I shall leave you to search
 the Scriptures, and see if these things be not true; for
 this is written in true Love to all, but more especially
 to awaken those that are asleep in their mistaken Judg-
 ment, and led away by the dreaming Conceits of Ima-
 gination: These are they that have taken up a Religion
 upon Trust, upon the Credit and Relation of the Sons
 of Tradition, whose *Faith, Doctrine and Discipline* are
 the *Commandments of Men*, making a Money-Trade of
 Religion, and Persecuting such as do not conform to it:
 Some of these have publicly declared themselves to be
 neither *Papists* nor *Protestants*, but true Sons of the *Church*
of England. I desire you in all love, to examine how
 far she is degenerate from her first Principle, it may
 be easily discovered, if you understand Bishop *Jewel's*
Apology for the Church of England, and also the Principle
 and Practices of both these and the late Times, which
 differ not much in the ground. I have no Enmity in
 my Heart against any Person or People, but desire the
 good of all men, and that ye may be truly informed, and
 also to remember this Saying of the Wise Man, *Faith-*
ful are the Wounds of a Friend, but the Kisses of an Enemy

Prov. 27.
5, 6.

are deceitful. My aim is, that ye may understand me as I am, and not otherwise, not accounting me Worldly Wife, but honest, in dealing so plainly with you at this day, when the Ruin of the Dissenters from the Church of England, is threatned, I my self being one of them; and alio that the Projectors of Self-Interest amongst you have gotten more Power to destroy, than Honesty to preserve our *Protestant-Interest*. But to return to my purpose, which only concerns the ground of *True Religion*; The Faith unfeigned, which is the Gift of God only, and not at mans disposing, this was confessed by the Apostle Paul, when he said, *Not for that we have Dominion over your Faith, but as Helpers of your Joy; for by Faith you stand; True Faith being the substance of things hoped for, the Evidence of things not seen; it comes from God, and leads up to God again, and hath nothing of mans contrivance in it: Therefore let all cease from imposing Faith and Worship towards God upon his People, and let God alone to be King and Law-giver in mens Consciences, in matters of Faith and Worship towards him, unto whom alone it belongeth, whose right it is to reign there in the heavenly Dominion, which gives Victory over Death, Hell and the Grave; they that do otherways, do but lead men out from God, into Man's Contrivances, from that inward Principle of the divine Life, that God hath put in their Hearts and Consciences, to be the Guide of all Mankind, and is the only Infallible Way for them to trust to; for this brings them out of the Pride, Vanity and Deceits of the World, the other keeps them in them; so that few of them come to the true Knowledge of God, but continue in following the Devices and Desires of their own hearts, offending Gods holy Laws until they lay down their heads in everlasting Sorrow.*

2 Cor. 2.

24.
Heb. 11.

Sorrow. And thus is the Creation of God destroyed, by the craft and subtilty of those blind Guides that see not beyond their own worldly Interest and profit; but if men would have regard to the Commandments of God, to keep them, that would make them wiser than their Teachers, that have been the chief cause of sowing Discord between the King and People, and between one sort of People and another, which have strengthened both *Faction* and *Atheism*, and will do more and more, if it be not prevented.

Psal. 119.
6, 98, 99,
100.

Let these things be weighed in a sincere humble Mind, which is a true Ballance, lest any be deceived by the false Weights and Measures of those that make a Trade of Religion, which are the Buyers and Sellers of the Souls of men; these have been the chief cause that Hell hath enlarged it self abundantly of late years, to the great Grief of all sincere true Christians; for since this Day-spring of divine Light and Love that hath appeared so effectually to all those that have waited in Faith and Patience to be Partakers of it, the old Enemy of Mankind, which is the great Accuser of God's People in all Ages, hath raged more abundantly, seeking by Persecution, Slanders, and Reproaching the Children of Light, to remove all that may obstruct his Kingdom of Darkness and Delusions; but the Lord God Everlasting will more and more break forth by his Almighty Power to blast the Expectations of all those his Agents & Instruments, that have strengthened man in his Wickedness, to prevent or hinder the Prosperity of Peace and Truth in this Land of our Nativity, whether they be Professors of Religion, or Prophane loose Persons.

O Eternal Powerful Lord God! hasten this thy Work, that all Mankind may fear and tremble before thee: Then shall the works

works of Darknes be destroyed, and thy holy Power will be
adored more abundantly in the Hearts and Consciences of the
Sons and Daughters of Men, to thy Everlasting Praise and
Glory for evermore, Amen.

Written in the Year

1683.

Anne Docwra.

THe Mystery of God's Love to all
Is Light within: Now since the Fall,
Vain man, that's rock't asleep in Sin,
Sees not the Day-Star coming in.
The fond Desires of Vain Delight
Brings Sorrow and Eternal Night.

1 Pet. 1.
19.

Ephes. 5.
13, 14,
15.

Awake, Awake, come to the Light,
Which shews thy Deeds that are not Right:
Why shouldst thou sleep the Sleep of Death?
And lie in Sorrow down Beneath,
When Light is given thee for thy Guide,
To bring thee from thy Life of Pride?
The humble lowly Truth invite
All men to stoop, to it unite,
That thou mayst know a Resting-place
With God, that will the Proud debase.

John 3.
19, 20,
21.
2 Cor. 4.
6.

This Testimony of God's Love,
The Light descending from above,
That shines into the Hearts of all,
For to Redeem out of the Fall;
It shews to man, how to begin
The Work of God that Conquors Sin,
Discovering Vice and Vertue clear,
To all that will to it adhere.

That

*That ev'ry man may see his Sin,
Ev'n by the Light that shines within;
Which shews to ev'ry one, his Deeds
Spring from the good or evil Seeds.*

*This Light is for the Righteous sown,
The Just mans Path, where God is known :
Sons of Corruption come not there,
No Vipers in this Path appear.
This troublesome Insect that Aspires,
To Rob man of his good Desires
To Justice, Mercy, Love and Peace,
That no true Vertue may increase;
Their Sun will set, and storms will come,
A Bed of Sorrow is their Doome,
Though in the Sun these Vipers play,
And think not of a Reckoning day.*

*Psal. 97.
11.
Prov. 4-
8, 9.*

*'Awake, my Friends, come and behold,
This Light divine will not be sold,
Nor bought for Money, 'tis too dear
And pretious, as it does appear.
Our bounteous God, he hath sent forth
His Proclamation of great worth,
Which calls to all to come and buy
Of him, that will not Life deny,
Wine and Milk without Coine,
Bath heavenly, pure and divine;
All those that freely feed on is,
In heavenly places they shall sit.*

*Isa. 55. 1.
John 7.
37, 38,
39.*

Anne Doctura.

THE END.

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